

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6191
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BEL

UNCLAS NICOSIA 1944

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CY
SUBJECT: LOCAL COVERAGE OF MAKARIOS TA NEA INTERVIEW

1. JULY 24 GREEK PRESS GAVE BANNER HEADLINE COVERAGE TO
AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS TO ATHENS TA NEA
CORRESPONDENT MATHIOPOULOS. MAKARIOS REPORTEDLY TOLD MATHI-
OPOULOS THAT "NOT ONLY THE GUARANTOR POWERS, GREECE, BRITIAN
AND NATURALLY TURKEY, BUT ALSO THE U.S. AND THE NATO ALLIES
BEAR GREAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS
IN 1974." ACCORDING TO TA NEA STORY MAKARIOS SAID U.S.
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AND NATO COULD HAVE "AVERTED" THE INVASION, OF "IF
NOTHING ELSE, FOILED THE SECOND PHASE." LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE
WAS MORE SENSATIONAL THAN ACTUAL STORY. LEFTIST NICOSIA
TA NEA HEADLINED "THE U.S. AND NATO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE INVASION." GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTING PHILELEFTHEROS HEAD-
LINED ITS ACCOUNT "U.S. AND NATO KNEW AND GAVE THE 'GREEN
LIGHT'."

2. TURKISH CYPRIOT PRESS PICKED UP STORY FOLLOWING DAY, BUT GAVE IT LITTLE PROMINENCE. FOCUS OF COVERAGE WAS THAT FOR FIRST TIME MAKARIOS HAD ACCUSED U.S. AND NATO OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR TURKISH INTERVENTION.

3. GOC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE CONFIRMED ARCHBISHOP HAD SEEN MATHIOPOULOS BUT SIAD THERE IS NO OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW. PIO STATED THAT INTERVIEW WAS CONSIDERED AN "ORAL BRIEFING."

4. COMMENT: MAKARIOS' STATEMENT IS NOT PARTICULARLY NEW. MANY TIME HE HAS SAID IN PRIVATE MEETINGS THAT HE BELIEVED US COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE TURKISH INTERVENTION. WE WONDER WHY HE CHOSE THIS MOMENT TO RAISE THE SUBJECT PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, AND FIND IT PARTICULARLY INTERESTING THAT NO OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT WAS PUBLISHED. WE TEND TO THINK THE STATEMENT PROBABLY WAS AIMED AT DOMESTIC POLITICAL OPINION AS A COUNTER BALANCE TO TOEHR STATEMENTS THE ARCHBISHOP HAS RECENTLY BEEN MAKING THAT HE HOPES THERE WILL BE A NEW CLIFFORD MISSION SOON AND THAT THE US IS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH CAN GIVE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN REACHING A CYPRUS SOLUTION.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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